

235B.3A Prevention of additional abuse — notification of rights.

If a peace officer has reason to believe that dependent adult abuse, which is criminal in nature, has occurred, the officer shall use all reasonable means to prevent further abuse, including but not limited to any of the following:

1. If requested, remaining on the scene as long as there is a danger to the dependent adult's physical safety without the presence of a peace officer, including but not limited to staying in the dwelling unit, or if unable to remain at the scene, assisting the dependent adult in leaving the residence and securing support services or emergency shelter services.

2. Assisting the dependent adult in obtaining medical treatment necessitated by the dependent adult abuse, including providing assistance to the dependent adult in obtaining transportation to the emergency room of the nearest hospital.

3. Providing a dependent adult with immediate and adequate notice of the dependent adult's rights. The notice shall consist of handing the dependent adult a document that includes the telephone numbers of shelters, support groups, and crisis lines operating in the area and contains a copy of the following written statement; requesting the dependent adult to read the card; and asking the dependent adult whether the dependent adult understands the rights:

a. You have the right to ask the court for the following help on a temporary basis:

(1) Keeping the alleged perpetrator away from you, your home, and your place of work.

(2) The right to stay at your home without interference from the alleged perpetrator.

(3) Professional counseling for you, your family, or household members, and the alleged perpetrator of the dependent adult abuse.

b. If you are in need of medical treatment, you have the right to request that the peace officer present assist you in obtaining transportation to the nearest hospital or otherwise assist you.

c. If you believe that police protection is needed for your physical safety, you have the right to request that the peace officer present remain at the scene until you and other affected parties can leave or safety is otherwise ensured.

96 Acts, ch 1130, §6; 2009 Acts, ch 133, §87, 88